PROJECT TITLE

Interprofessional Education in AAC in Ontario: Enhancing Teamwork

TEAM MEMBERS

Anne Marie Renzoni ^{1,2}, Tracy Shepherd ^{1,2}, Nola Millin ³, Steven E. Ryan ⁴, Danielle D'Alessandro ⁴, Kathryn Parker ²

ORGANIZATIONS/ PROGRAMS

1.Centralized Equipment Pool, 2.
Holland Bloorview Kids
Rehabilitation Hospital, 3. St. Clair
College 4. Bloorview Research
Institute, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

RATIONALE

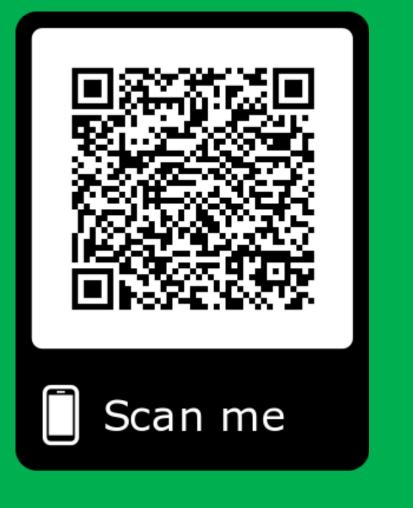
Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) clinical practice is a collaborative team approach. Team members include SLP, OT, CDA and Technologists. Challenge: New team members need to learn on the job and require significant support and training. There are over 375 staff at 27 AAC clinics in Ontario. The **Centralized Equipment Pool** provides a continuing education program for AAC clinics across Ontario and has the opportunity to enhance education for new team members.

OBJECTIVE / METHODS

To identify the learning needs and gaps for new team members working at AAC clinics in Ontario.

This quality improvement project used an online version of a modified Delphi technique to achieve consensus with key stakeholders (clinic managers, experienced clinicians and new staff) Three online surveys were conducted: 1. Identification of gaps, 2. Rating of importance and 3. Consensus building.

To enhance Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC) education we need to expand training to include team building, AAC knowledge, skills and practice in the real world



RESULTS

33 stakeholders responded to all 3 surveys (73% response rate). They represented new and experienced staff and clinic managers across Ontario. Identified learning needs for new staff were refined during the 3 survey rounds and ranked in terms of importance.

The top 3 learning needs in each area are presented below:

Interprofessional Team Skills

- Communication skills
- Team approach
- Team dynamics

Clinical Knowledge

- Knowledge of devices
- Vocabulary and language
- AAC assessment tools & frameworks

Clinical Skills

- Practical hands on
- Assessment methods
- Team based skills

Technical Knowledge

- Exposure to a range of devices
- Keeping up with changes
- Problem solving, creativity

Technical Skills

- On the job training
- Keeping up with tech changes
- Skills hardware and software

conclusions This project will enhance education programs offered through the Centralized Equipment Pool (CEP) for new staff in AAC clinics. Providing a strong foundation in AAC clinical practice will improve team based practice to support AAC services for clients and families.

NEXT STEPS

To enhance AAC curriculum for new staff in Ontario through:

- Formation of a CEP Education
 Advisory Committee
- Develop AAC curriculum targeting identified needs and explore best education delivery mechanisms.